

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 12

INTRODUCED BY D. MAHLUM

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4 A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF
5 MONTANA URGING CONGRESS TO SUPPORT A FOUR-STATE "ICE AGE FLOODS NATIONAL GEOLOGIC
6 TRAIL" THAT INCLUDES A GLACIAL LAKE MISSOULA INTERPRETIVE CENTER AND INTERPRETIVE
7 ROADSIDE SIGNS IN WESTERN MONTANA.

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9 WHEREAS, the last great ice age created the gigantic ancient Glacial Lake Missoula, whose repeated
10 cataclysmic floods created the landscape of much of the Columbia River drainage; and

11 WHEREAS, these floods and their effects are some of the most dramatic geologic events in the history
12 of the earth; and

13 WHEREAS, the geologic history is both fascinating and visible from existing highways in western
14 Montana, the Idaho panhandle, eastern Washington, northern Oregon, and the Columbia River Valley through
15 the gorge to the Pacific Ocean; and

16 WHEREAS, Congress directed that an Ice Age Floods Study of Alternatives and Environmental
17 Assessment be developed by the National Park Service, together with many individuals and organizations
18 throughout the four-state region; and

19 WHEREAS, the result of that study is a preferred alternative that recommends an interpretive center in
20 each of the four states as well as a trail system of interpretive signs at key locations along existing roadways;
21 and

22 WHEREAS, a coordinated, creative, and accurate telling of this natural history story will be of great
23 interest and educational value to the citizenry of these states and to students of all ages; and

24 WHEREAS, citizens of western Montana have enthusiastically supported the "Ice Age Floods National
25 Geologic Trail"; and

26 WHEREAS, this interesting story will aid the state of Montana and Montana businesses in their efforts
27 to attract tourists to Montana, thus supporting economic development in Montana; and

28 WHEREAS, the preferred alternative supports the creation of an "Ice Age Floods National Geologic
29 Trail", headed by the National Park Service, which would work with and coordinate with state and federal
30 agencies, the tribes, nonprofit organizations, and commercial enterprises to create this interpretive trail; and



